



CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, stands with the recruits and drill instructors of Platoon 1011, Company A's last honor platoon Aug. 30. *Jess Levens/Chevron*

Happy birthday from the commanding general

For 231 years our Corps has built its reputation as the nation's force in readiness – winning battles and earning respect around the globe. This year, we see Marines deployed across the reaches of our world, demonstrating through sustained and valorous actions our Corps values of “honor, courage, and commitment,” and our motto Semper Fidelis!

Since our inception on Nov. 10, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress created a Corps of Marines to defend the nation and to fight for liberty and democracy, we have represented and advanced our founding fathers' ideals and interests at home and around the globe.

For more than two centuries, our Corps has been synonymous with self-sacrifice, military efficiency and a warfighting spirit. From the Barbary Coast to the far reaches of the Pacific, on the snowcapped mountains of Korea, in the sweltering jungles of Vietnam and across the vast Arabian Desert, Marines have answered the call and served with distinction.

As we celebrate our birthday, let us not forget our mission of recruiting and making Marines. As we look to our future and the uncertainty of ongoing conflicts, we can take great pride in knowing we are preparing those Marines who will ultimately

produce victory and who have already made a critical difference in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Africa and South East Asia.

Finally, on this 231st anniversary of the founding of our Corps, let us pause to honor the memory of past Marines and renew our commitment to the sacrifices they made and to the high standards they established.

To all Marines of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region, to our shipmates in the Navy and Coast Guard and to the civilian Marines who work to make this command successful, I thank you for your efforts and look forward to another year of serving our Corps and our nation together.

Celebrate with pride! Happy Birthday Marines, and Semper Fidelis!

A. Salinas
Brigadier General,
U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General

Polls open Nov. 7 as service members prepare to vote

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC
Press chief

For the first time in half a century, millions of Iraqis voted in a national free election Jan. 31, an opportunity provided to them through the sacrifices and hard work of the people in the U.S. military, coalition forces and Iraqis.

The General Elections are four days away, and everyone is encouraged to take part in this freedom-defining process.

“Every U.S. citizen, who has registered to vote, should vote on Nov. 7,” said Lisa M. Botuchis, depot and Western Recruiting Region adjutant and voting officer.

One of the most important civic responsibilities Americans have is voting.

“Being part of the legislative process is empowering and gives us an opportunity to make our collective voices heard,” said Botuchis. “It's one of the hallmarks of citizenship.”

There are some Marines, however, who do not want to get politically involved. They would rather have their already-elected leaders take care of business on their behalf and remain indifferent to the political process.

“I don't really keep up on elections,” said Cpl. Jeffery B. Owens, warehouse noncommissioned officer in charge, Clothing Branch.

Owens, who is 23, said he did not want to get caught up in the politics of his home town and state of Harlan, Ky. He said he believes in what the Marine Corps and America stand for, but would rather avoid political issues.

Candidates running for office are not the only items on the ballots.

“There are also propositions on the ballot that will affect the amount we pay in taxes, the number of new schools built, whether or not a minor may get an abortion without parental notification, how many new roads will be built, whether hospitals will be upgraded, and so forth,” said Botuchis, who lives in San Diego. “It's important to read up on all the propositions, because you'll gain new perspectives by reading the pro and con of each one.”

After Owens found out that casting a ballot wasn't just for candidates, but for proposals he felt directly affected his future, he understood the ramifications of not being involved.

He said he wants to stand up for what he believes in, yet does not know what the issues are in his state.

Owens said if he was knowledgeable about his states' ballot measures, he would vote.

“It's inherent to our Constitutional democracy and rights,” said Botuchis. “We are privileged to live in a free democracy with rights unknown by many others in the world. We should feel proud to vote.”

To find out information on uniformed and overseas citizens absentee voting, log on to www.fvap.gov/laws/uocava.html.

Marines, depot mascot help kids understand dangers of drugs

BY LANCE CPL. ALICIA SMALL
Chevron staff

Depot Marines, accompanied by Lance Cpl. Molly and Scruff McGruff the crime dog, visited Holmes Elementary School Oct. 25 where they made presentations to the school's Red Ribbon Week contest winners.

Having Marines in attendance made a big impact on the children, said Frank Chavez, Drug Demand Reduction coordinator for the depot.

“The involvement by Marines in their local community

sends a positive message that the Marines are there to protect, defend and participate in the areas in which they live,” said Chavez.

According to Chavez, having Marines engage with the youth sends a strong message to live a drug-free life. He believes it is crucial in preventing children's participation in the use and abuse of illicit drugs.

The theme of the contest students participated in was “100% Me Drug Free.”

From each classroom, three winners were chosen per grade

SEE **Ribbon, pg. 2**



FLEET WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

With the bounty of military events now over, the Chevron decided to touch on key points for those who missed out.

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RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

When the Twin Towers fell in 2001, two eighth graders took it personally. Now the cousins are ready to serve as U.S. Marines.

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THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT SEASON

After a spectacular debut season, the Depot Titans hang it up after playoff loss.

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Ribbon, from pg. 1
from kindergarten to sixth grade. Students in kindergarten through second grade drew posters, and third through sixth graders wrote essays and poems.
Red Ribbon Week is full of activities to raise drug-abuse awareness.
People wore red ribbons and bows to show their support. Teachers and students decorated the hallways and rooms of the school with posters the children had drawn about the negative aspects of drugs and alcohol, and how they promote unhealthy lifestyles, said Sylvia Willis-Dryden-Dorsey, substance abuse counselor on the depot.
Pledges were also made by students and Marine participants to be 100 percent drug free. To exhibit the amount of pledges made, pledge cards were signed and chains were made with links to

Senior company on deck wears Sunday best to last church service

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron Staff
Some recruits would stop what they were doing just to sneak a peak at the recruits of Company I as they made their way toward McDougall Hall here, for their last religious service while in boot camp, Oct. 29.



Pfc. Lance Gray, Platoon 3039, Company I, praises the Lord during his company's final religious service Oct. 29.

First-term Marines learn perks of reenlistment

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN
Chevron staff
Marines from the depot on their first tour attended the First Term Alignment Program brief here on Oct. 25.
The FTAP brief informed the Marines about future opportunities in the Marine Corps-special duty assignments and incentives of reenlistment.
Marines learned they could reenlist and benefit from the options they have available to them. These options include reenlistment bonuses of up to \$45,000 for some military occupational specialties. Other advantages of reenlistment include duty station assignments, MOS changes, school seat assignments or special duty assignments.
Although the benefits sounded tempting, the Marines were also informed that every MOS had limited boatspaces- a reenlistment opportunity in a particular MOS. Because boatspace is limited, once it is full there are no more opportunities for Marines to reenlist in that MOS until

the next fiscal year.
"If a Marine tries to reenlist and is turned down for his original MOS for what ever reason, whether it is a boatspace issue or tough competition, he can (change jobs)," said Sgt. Felix A. Ferrin, a career retention specialist for Headquarters and Service Battalion here.
If a Marine desires to conduct a lateral move he can choose another MOS he is qualified for, or put in for a special duty assignment.
The special duty assignments brought up in the brief were Marine Security Guard, recruiting duty, drill instructor and Explosive Ordinance Disposal. Because these assignments are special duties, they are not mandatory but will help in promotion and advancement in the Marine Corps.
"Lateral moves are normally reserved for first term Marines, although career Marines are occasionally approved for a lateral move if their request fits the needs of the Marine Corps," said Ferrin, a St. Lucie, Fla. Native.

represent every drug-free oath.
Drug abuse prevention and awareness programs are crucial to keeping people drug free from an early age.
"I enjoyed taking part in drug prevention programs because they are great tools to help reach children and educate them on the harmful effects of drugs," said McGruff impersonator Cpl. Daniel S. Sheppard, native of Holly, Mich. "I believe it also helps to boost their confidence to make the right decisions."
Red Ribbon Week is a nationally recognized and celebrated drug prevention event where communities and organizations come together to support and promote drug prevention and awareness, said Sylvia.
The event honors Kikki Camarena, DEA agent and former Marine, and his commitment to safeguard the nation against drug trafficking and the abuse of drugs in local communities.

transformation that affected many of the newer recruits as well.
It helps the newer recruits through boot camp because every week they see a new company in the service "C" uniform. It shows the completion of boot camp.
"I know it inspires other recruits because it inspired me when I was in boot camp," said Banda, a native of San Luis Obispo, Calif. "It gives them a sense of accomplishment in recruit training, and it motivates me to see them come this far."
Week-after-week when the recruits of Company I participated in weekly church services, the senior companies who were in the service "C" uniform inspired Gray and other recruits to push on and finish their training.
"It seems like yesterday when I was a new recruit," said Gray, a Laverne, Calif., native. "Whenever I went to church, I would see the senior company wearing their (service "C") uniform, and it gave me something to hope for. When I looked at them, it was like looking at a light at the end of a tunnel."
Now that it is Company I's turn in the spotlight, Gray feels that it is his duty to help the newer recruits push through, just as previous companies inspired him.
"Now I do what I can to help the newer recruits because we are all a part of the same brotherhood," said Gray. "Some of them may fight alongside me in Iraq. I would only be hurting myself in the long run if I didn't help them now."

BRIEFS
Annual Retired Military Personnel Seminar and Resource Fair
This free fair is scheduled for tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the depot theater and is open to all retired military personnel, their families and prospective military retirees. For more information, call the Retired Activities Office at NAVBASE San Diego at (619) 556-8987, or at MCRD at (619) 524-5301 or e-mail nrswrhao@navy.mil.

MCCS job openings
Job opportunities are available in the Marine Corps Exchange, recreation facilities, restaurant and other departments on base. MCCS is currently hiring for the following positions:
-Sales Associates
-Laborers
-Visual Laborer
-Accounting Clerk
-Recreation Aides
-Food Service Workers
-Waiter/Waitress
Positions are subject to change at any time. Apply in person at Bldg. 5 Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact (619) 725-6226 Fax: (619) 725-6233.

Thanksgiving buffet
The depot's Bay View Restaurant will be hosting a Thanksgiving buffet from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 23. The price will be \$24.95 for adults and \$12.50 for children ages 4-12. Children under four eat free. Traditional Thanksgiving dishes and trimmings will be served. For more information and reservations, call (619) 725-6356.

MCRD Running Team meeting
The MCRD running team is meeting to discuss membership and the race schedule for 2007. All active duty, reserve, retired, dependants and civilian Marines are welcome to attend and join. The meeting will be held Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the recreation center. Free food will be provided. For more information, send an e-mail to bernardo.camacho@usmc.mil.

Voting assistance
Voting is a right and a civic responsibility. Its importance cannot be overstated. Take the time to vote in the General Elections on Tuesday. You must be registered to vote so you can receive an absentee ballot. Unit Voting Assistance Officers can help you with registration. It's quick and easy. Please contact your UVAO if you would like to exercise your right to vote. Here are the UVAOs located aboard the depot:
Command/Installation: Ms. Botuchis at (619) 524-8735
Headquarters and Service Battalion: Capt. Serano at (619) 524-1979
Recruit Training Regiment: Gunnery Sgt. Leese at (619) 524-0367
12th Marine Corps District: Capt. Mestemacher at (619) 542-5572

SEND BRIEFS TO
jess.levens@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

New Iwo movie depicts accurate view of PTSD

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC
Press Chief
Everyone in my office went to the movies on Friday for some professional military education. We saw Flags of our Fathers, and it evoked an emotional response out of me. Though I have only read bits and pieces of the book, the film was very well done and thought provoking.
Clint Eastwood's film was about a photograph taken during the Battle of Iwo Jima, toward the end of World War II, when five Marines and one Navy corpsman raised the American Flag over the small Japanese-entrenched island in the Pacific.
One of the things I walked away from the movie with was a deeper understanding of post traumatic stress disorder, which is a condition that affects the psychological well-being of individuals who have gone through an intense experience.
The movie primarily trailed two Marines, Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon, and one Navy corpsman, John Bradley, who went on a war bond tour after the photograph was publicly released.
Gagnon relished in the publicity and planned to capitalize on his fame after the war. On the opposite end of the spectrum, Ira Hayes was upset about the tour and desired to go back to his unit.

From watching the film, I saw that Hayes had symptoms of PTSD, and it was portrayed most openly by his drinking problem. Bradley also had a problem coping with the experiences of war, and from what I've read about him, he cried in his sleep.
There was a scene in the movie where the three "war heroes" showed up to Soldier Field in Chicago during their 32-city bond tour. Their mission: to reenact the flag raising on a replica of Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi. Bradley and Hayes vehemently opposed the act but went through with it because it was needed for the war effort.
When show time came, Gagnon had no problem climbing, but Hayes and Bradley struggled up the mountain as fireworks exploded causing flashbacks.
There are many today who have PTSD, both combat and non-combat related. It is treatable and needs to be taken seriously by those in leadership positions. This is the main element I gained from the movie. I also saw that PTSD happens randomly and can affect anyone. I recommend taking your Marines to see the movie.



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'Flags of our Fathers' film minimizes Marines' bond

BY JOANNA M. McDONALD
Education Specialist, command Museum
As the Museum's Education Specialist I have the privilege and responsibility to teach young people about our Marine Corps' proud history.
One of the museum's education presentations is on the World War II campaign of Iwo Jima, Feb. 19 through Mar. 24, 1945.
As I hold a replica Thompson sub-machine gun, I look at the teenagers and tell them it takes not just facts, but imagination to study history. You need to allow your intellect and emotions to travel into the conflict, and then ... congratulations, you are all Marines with the 5th Marine Division and are landing on a small seven-and-a-half-mile long Pacific island surrounded by 22,000, well-dug-in Japanese soldiers.
It took 36 days for our warriors to take Iwo. They literally fought rock-by-rock, bunker-to-bunker.
On the fourth day Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, took a picture of the second flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi. The flash took 1/400th of a second, but that image is the most commonly known photograph that Americans recall about World War II.

Old Glory was at the highest point on the island, flying in the face of the enemy, epitomizing the Marines' tenacity, bravery and unwillingness to accept defeat. Students are encouraged to read this book, and there are a plethora of other excellent publications on this historic event.
Though hesitant because of the marketing hype, I picked up the book in April. I was immediately transported to 1945. Thus, I eagerly awaited the film. Rumors flew that the battle scenes are 10 times better than "Saving Private Ryan" and the acting is remarkable.
In the book, authors James Bradley, son of corpsman John "Jack" Bradley, and Ron Powers give the reader a sequence of events. They provide background on the Americans who raised the flag: Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian brought up on a reservation in Ariz.; Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Ky.; and Michael Strank from Franklin Borough near Pittsburgh; and the three others. The reader first meets them as teenagers, living among their families and friends, and learns why they chose to join the Marine Corps.
The book then takes us to Iwo Jima, nicknamed "Sulfur Island." Mt. Suribachi is a foul-smelling, dormant volcano, the highest point on the island is 516 feet. Two chapters are dedicated to the two flags

raised, and the authors do not neglect the first five Marines who jammed a make-shift pole into the ground with the U.S. flag waving high above.
Marine Lou Lowery, a "Leatherneck" photographer, captured the scene. A larger U.S. flag was ordered to replace the smaller one. It was then that five Marines and a corpsman became immortalized when the second photograph was taken.
But the conflict did not end there. The fighting continued as Marines dodged bullets, while bayonetting the enemy. "Doc" Bradley aided the wounded, and the details of Doc's best friend's death unfolded, details which stir the emotions, sicken you and make you angry or depressed.
You are on patrol with Sgt. Michael Strank when a short-round from a U.S. Navy ship bursts nearby and shrapnel flies everywhere, a piece ripping out his heart. That night a Japanese shell explodes. Another flag-raiser, Sgt. Frank Sousley, is cut in two by the blast. At this point, the emotionally drained reader may need to take a break. Marines are dying, and you are helpless to intercede.

Rejoining the leathernecks, the island is finally taken and victory claimed. The authors transition us as the three survivors, Jack Bradley, Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon travel to the U.S. during a war bond raising campaign. Only one chapter is dedicated to this event. The book ends with the corpsman John "Jack" Bradley's touching last days.
Though well-acted, the movie "Flags of Our Fathers" does not accomplish the same intensity of relationship between these Marines and their audience.
When Strank and Sousley are killed, it's poignant but doesn't evoke the same gut-wrenching sorrow and anger. The film fails to depict the strong emotional connection between the fighting Marines, and focuses more on the state-side bond tour with quick flash-backs to Iwo, leaving the audience with no sentimental ties to these warriors.
The film also centers too heavily on Ira Hayes' alcohol problem following the war, detracting from his earned status as a true warrior, a leatherneck with whom one would wish to share a foxhole.
The general public comes away thinking of Ira Hayes, "the alcoholic," not the stalwart Marine who fought on Iwo Jima.
Should you go see "Flags of Our Fathers?" Yes, but pick up the book from the library and read a few chapters, or visit the Command Museum, and then go see it. You will better appreciate the nearly 6,700 Marines and sailors who were killed on this tiny island where "Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue."

2006 MCRD SAN DIEGO BIRTHDAY BALL SCHEDULE

Enlisted Ball (E-1 through E-5):
When: Nov. 4
Where: Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina
Price: \$10 for active duty personnel, \$25 for guests
Contact: Master Sgt. Coleman – (619) 524-6076

Enlisted Ball (E-6 through E-9):
When: Nov. 18
Where: Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina
Price: \$40 for active duty personnel, \$48 for guests
Contact: 1st Sgt. Slattery – (619) 524-5186

Officers Ball:
When: Nov. 11
Where: Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina
Price: \$50 for active duty personnel, \$65 for guests
Contact: Capt. Serano (H&S Bn.) – (619) 524-1979
Capt. Ashley (RTR) – (619) 524-0367

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Sean D. Tucker pilots the Oracle Challenger 15 feet above the ground and shreds ribbons held by the Patriot Team. *Staff Sgt. Jeff Janowiec/Chevron*



Cpl. Jeffrey Tang, noncommissioned officer in charge, traffic management office, thanks the community during the San Diego Rotary Club Enlisted Recognition Luncheon Oct. 5. Tang was recognized for his selfless service to the San Diego community, which includes tutoring children and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and at children's hospitals. *Pic: John A. Chretien/Combat Camera*



Navy and Air Force bands perform during Fleet Week at Qualcomm Stadium during the half time show of the Air Force and San Diego State football game. *Pic: Charlie chavez/Chevron*

FLEET WEEK IN REVIEW

Local military event smorgasbord ends

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron Staff

Five weeks of Fleet Week fun came to an end Oct. 28. Fleet Week is a month-long series of events that is held in honor of the sea services for “serving America twice,” both in defending the country and supporting the community, said Lisa Richards, event chairman for Fleet Week this year. “San Diego is a military town, and we owe a lot to service members for their selflessness, sacrifice and dedication in honor of our nation,” said Richards.

People came from across the country to join with local residents and businesses to take part in more than 25 events, many of which were at minimal or no cost to the service members.

The celebration began Sept. 29 with Operation Liberty Call in the Gas Lamp Quarter of downtown San Diego. Several businesses offered many discounts to service members who purchased a \$3 coupon book that totaled more than \$1,000 in savings.

Fleet Week is also designed to improve the relationship between the community and sea services by educating the public about the military.

In October, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar hosted its

three-day, award-winning air show, where civilians witnessed the extremes in military aviation capability and strength.

The public was also given the opportunity to be a Marine for a day during the depot's Boot Camp Challenge Oct. 7.

A golf tournament and several dinners and luncheons were also held during the event in honor of service members, with the Navy Ball finishing the celebration.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Lucier, from Lakewood, Calif., attended the San Diego Rotary Enlisted Recognition Luncheon – one of the extravagant free meals offered to service members as part of Fleet Week.

“I thought the lunch they provided for the service members was fantastic,” said Lucier, medical coordinator for the Marine Liason at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. “It feels really good to see the community support the military.”

Since the San Diego Fleet Week's creation in 1997, it has grown to be the largest military-appreciation event in the nation, with the week spanning to a month-long series of events which honor service members, said Richards.

“Service members have a tough job, and we as a community appreciate their efforts,” said Richards. “Like every year, we will continue to build on the success of the one before and continue to pursue activities and events that fulfill Fleet Week's mission.”



A depot Marine hits a drive on the 11th hole during the San Diego Gas and Electric All Enlisted Golf Tournament at Admiral Baker Golf Course. *Lance Cpl. Alicia Small/Chevron*



Ewa Beach, Hawaii, natives Michael Esmeralda, 17, Alvin Kam, 16, and Jelomie Agpaoa, 16, give signs of approval for their team's placement during the Boot Camp Challenge. These Hawaiians were part of a group of about a dozen students from James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. They traveled to California's coast to witness what active duty Marines do and to see recruits being transformed into Marines, and they took part in the challenge Oct. 7. *Staff Sgt. Jeff Janowiec/Chevron*



Thousands of spectators watch four Navy Blue Angel Jets roar overhead during this year's Miramar Air Show. *Staff Sgt. Jeff Janowiec/Chevron*

Towering cousins graduate together; inspired by 9/11

BY LANCE CPL. ALICIA SMALL
Chevron staff

More than five years after tragedy struck American soil, two cousins graduated high school and joined the Marine Corps to defend the Constitution of the United States. Private First Class Nicholas B. Von Koenig and Pvt. Benjamin E. Von Koenig, platoon 3034, Co. I, were assembled in their eighth grade classes in Saint Joseph, Mich. Sept. 11, 2001 when the principal of the school announced the tragic events that had taken place and told all the teachers to turn on their classroom televisions.

Ever since they were children, the Von Koenig cousins knew they wanted to be in the military. With two uncles in the Army and a grandfather in the Marine Corps, they felt it was their destiny to serve their country, too.

They had spent a lot of time with their grandfather, and they admired how he carried himself. The stories he told of his time in the Corps influenced them and sparked their mutual interest to enlist. Before their grandfather passed away, they promised him they would follow in his footsteps and make him proud.

As they grew up, they watched friends join the armed forces and noticed the positive changes in them. Their friends had a higher level of confidence because the military made them more mature and positive about themselves and their abilities, said Nicholas.

They wanted the same qualities and characteristics their family and friends had, and believed the only way they could achieve this was to enlist, said Benjamin.

When they made the decision to sign their enlistment papers, the cousins remembered how sounds of shock and disbelief had filled their school and the feeling of anger that raged through them as they watched and listened to the horrific events of 9/11, said Nicholas.

After researching all the different branches of service, they came to the conclusion that they wanted to join the Marine Corps. They said their military occupational specialty of choice was infantry. There weren't enough spots available however, and Benjamin decided to go with security forces instead.

"The Von Koenigs participated in Delayed Entry Program functions for two years before being able to leave for training," said Sgt. Peter J. Hansen, recruiter Recruiting Substation St. Joseph, Recruiting Station Lansing, Mich. "They gave 110 percent of themselves to do what it took to get ready for boot camp."

They were used as positive examples during the DEP functions. Everyone looked up to them because they always went above and beyond expectations, said Hansen, who is originally from Chaska, Minn.

Marine Corps boot camp presented them with the best and most challenging training available. They believed this would benefit them and they would obtain bearing and self-discipline, which were high on the Von Koenigs' list of admirable Marine characteristics they desired for themselves.

"I believe the Marine Corps teaches the discipline to start something and finish it," said Benjamin. "It teaches you to take the initiative to do the right thing when no one is looking. The Marine Corps challenges you to make something of yourself."

The Von Koenigs took the Marine Corps challenge and pushed themselves to their fullest potential.

According to Staff Sgt. Dustin L. Peterson, drill instructor, platoon 3034, Nicholas was a squad leader throughout training, and Benjamin was the guide until training day 20 when he was substituted to allow others the opportunity to

lead from a top position. Despite the substitution, Peterson said Benjamin continued to perform as an above-average recruit and became a squad leader during second phase.

Although their leadership styles differed from the more authoritative style used in training, they still had great leadership skills and always did just as they were instructed, said Peterson, native of West Union, Iowa.

Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment were also demonstrated by the Von Koenigs.

"Their commitment to the goal of becoming a Marine and their work ethic were their strongest values when they first arrived at the depot," said Peterson. "They had shown

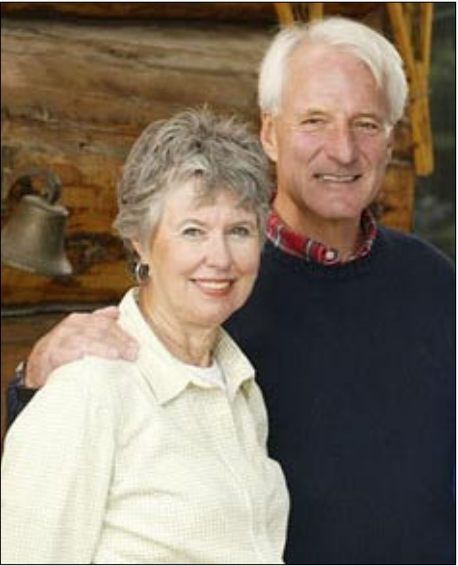
a good work ethic since the beginning of the training cycle and were chosen more than the other recruits to perform tasks because the drill instructors knew they would be accomplished with minimal supervision required."

"Their drive and desire to be the best was unmatched by anyone I've recruited," said Hansen. "I'm confident they will do great things for themselves and the Marine Corps."

Ready to fight for freedom and defend the lives of those they love, the Von Koenigs have successfully become basically trained Marines and now advance to the next stage of their training—Marine Combat Training.



Pfc. Nicholas B. Von Koenig (left) and his cousin Pvt. Benjamin E. Von Koenig, Platoon 3034, Company I, said after today's graduation, they will stand tall and proud like New York's Twin Towers once did. Lance Cpl. Alicia Small/Chevron



Lt. Governor John Bohlinger PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

On Nov. 2, 2004, John Bohlinger was elected as Montana's lieutenant governor. John was born in Bozeman, Mont., April 21, 1936, to parents John and Aileen Bohlinger. In 1941, John, his sister Tina, and their parents moved from Bozeman to Billings, Mont. His parents opened a women's apparel store called Aileen's, which would become a beloved fixture of downtown Billings.

John attended Billings Senior High School and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve during his senior year. After graduation, he attended the

University of Montana and was called to active duty in the Marines between his sophomore and junior year. John completed his service in the Marines with an honorable discharge, returned to the University of Montana and earned a degree in business.

John returned to Billings and went to work in his family business. He married Bette Cobetto, and together they raised a family of six children.

During his 33-year career as a small businessman, John also worked for many community organizations in the Billings area. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Billings Chamber of Commerce, First Interstate Bank West, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch and

the Billing's Studio Theater. John served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the St. Patrick's Catholic Church Parish Council. He has also served as president of the Board of Directors of the Yellowstone Art Museum and president of the Billings Symphony. He is currently a member of the Helena Rotary and Helena Cathedral.

John is also a veteran of the Montana Legislature. First elected in 1992, John was elected to three terms in the House and recently resigned his seat in the Senate to serve as lieutenant governor in January 2005.

On Jan. 9, after a courageous fight, Bette Bohlinger lost her second battle with cancer.



COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. B. D. Lake
Lake in the Hills, Ill.
Recruited by
Sgt. A. Mrozik

SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. M. Ortega
Culver City, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. Jackson

PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. C. M. Smith
Frankenmuth, Mich.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. A. J. Pompos

PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. D. E. Kuzanek
The Colony, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. V. Diaz

PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. J. J. Moya
Tulia, Texas
Recruited by
Sgt. S. Martinez

PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. A. P. Balliet
Appleton, Wis.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. B. Nerad

HIGH SHOOTER (243)
Pfc. J. A. Kubler
Benton, Ark.
Recruited by
Sgt. D. Hammond

HIGH PFT (298)
Pfc. M. J. Sandoval
San Antonio
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. L. Hernandez

INDIA COMPANY

THIRD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. R. W. Jones
Chaplain
Lt. R. T. Rinaldi
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. R. E. Eriksson
Battalion Drill Master
Gunnery Sgt. M. Bermudez

COMPANY I
Commanding Officer
Capt. J. E. Philpot
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. R. A. Young
Company Corporal
Seaman B. J. Simmons

SERIES 3033
Series Commander
Capt. R. M. Bueno
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. R. V. Hall

SERIES 3037
Series Commander
1st Lt. M. A. Ross
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. E. A. Good

PLATOON 3033
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. E. J. Madrid
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. C. P. Lopez
Sgt E. Hernandezbrito
Sgt A. P. Soehngen

Pfc. G. Aldama
Pfc. Z. J. Alex
Pfc. F. Alvarez
Pvt. P. M. Anderson
Pvt. L. R. Andrews
Pvt. J. M. Antillon
Pvt. A. D. Arsenault
*Pfc. M. J. Backer
Pvt. P. Bartells
Pvt. T. R. Base
Pfc. A. M. Battels
Pvt. K. C. Begay
Pvt. D. M. Belcher
Pvt. S. A. Biddle
Pfc. A. C. Blum
*Pfc. G. K. Bohannon
Pvt. B. L. Burlingame
Pfc. A. J. Campos
Pvt. J. Chhouy
Pfc. J. A. Clayton
Pvt. M. G. Collins
Pvt. S. A. Cook
Pfc. K. I. Corrigan
Pvt. M. F. Crouse
Pvt. B. S. Dain
Pvt. S. M. Digrazia
Pvt. T. L. Dewart
Pfc. R. J. Ellinwood
Pvt. J. D. Ellison
Pvt. C. S. Eskridge
Pfc. M. W. Ewy
Pvt. E. Flores
Pvt. S. R. Fowler
Pvt. Z. R. Franz
Pvt. J. D. Fulmer
Pvt. J. E. Garcia
Pvt. M. I. Garcia
Pfc. A. G. Garzon
Pvt. J. R. Giles
Pvt. G. R. Gliedhill
Pvt. C. F. Grieschott
Pvt. A. A. Guenther
Pvt. A. L. Guerra
Pvt. R. G. Hahn
Pvt. B. L. Henriksen
Pvt. J. C. Hoffpaair
Pvt. J. D. Holsinger
Pfc. A. M. Hopkins
Pvt. J. Hottel
Pvt. S. R. Johnson
Pvt. A. P. Kennedy
Pfc. B. R. Kercheval
*Pfc. C. D. Killion
Pvt. C. S. Knudson
Pvt. W. L. Lanier
Pvt. H. Laraortiz
*Pfc. J. J. Lee
Pvt. J. L. Lemon
Pvt. N. Lewandowski
Pvt. Z. S. Lively
Pvt. M. J. Lopez
Pfc. C. M. Maness
Pvt. C. A. Marshall
Pfc. J. Martinez Jr.
Pfc. B. A. McClintock
Pvt. C. M. McKay
Pfc. J. R. Murdock
Pvt. J. D. Perez
Pvt. A. K. Peterson
Pvt. W. T. Ramage
Pvt. A. M. Rauma
Pvt. C. C. Ruoff
Pvt. C. J. Scrivner
Pvt. G. C. Shively
*Pfc. C. M. Smith

Pvt. C. L. Snyder
Pfc. J. G. Trujillorojas
*Pfc. R. C. Walters
Pvt. C. R. Weins

PLATOON 3034
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. C. W. Tyler
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. P. Leard
Staff Sgt. D. L. Peterson
Sgt. J. O. Angulo

Pfc. S. A. Afalla
Pvt. J. Alcala
Pvt. T. A. Alt
Pfc. A. B. Andrada
Pvt. C. J. Armstrong
Pfc. B. D. Baltzell
Pvt. J. M. Baricevic
Pfc. C. H. Bays
Pfc. M. R. Beaudreau
Pvt. R. L. Benavidez
Pfc. A. Biblanorajas
Pfc. M. E. Bledsoe
Pvt. J. A. Bliss
Pvt. S. E. Bohler
Pvt. A. B. Bridges
Pfc. W. J. Brown
Pvt. L. E. Bupp
Pfc. N. H. Burrell
Pvt. W. L. Byers
Pvt. C. S. Byrd
Pvt. J. R. Cardinal
Pfc. A. A. Castillo
Pvt. A. P. Chandler
Pfc. E. B. Clamor
Pvt. J. P. Connors
Pvt. S. L. Cook
Pvt. T. Cook
Pfc. H. R. Crawford
Pvt. M. C. Crossan
Pvt. J. A. Damos
Pvt. G. A. Day
Pvt. J. C. Diaz
Pfc. B. J. Diaz
Pvt. B. Dokh
Pvt. L. J. Draper
Pvt. A. K. Durrstein
Pvt. J. R. Earl
Pvt. T. S. Edwards
Pvt. J. Espericueta
Pfc. M. D. Fink
Pvt. B. E. Fitts
*Pfc. J. M. Frost
Pvt. J. C. Gallardo
Pfc. J. C. Garcavilla
Pvt. C. Gonzales IV
Pvt. D. L. Goodridge
*Pfc. M. W. Green
Pvt. K. D. Gregg Jr.
Pvt. I. Guerra
Pvt. T. A. Halbrook
Pvt. R. A. Hall
Pfc. A. C. Wilton
Pvt. W. R. Wolf III

Pfc. A. D. Frank
Pfc. J. L. Getman
Pfc. J. W. Gibson
Pvt. A. Gonzalez
Pvt. E. G. Harris IV
Pfc. J. P. Jordan
Pfc. A. Liu
Pvt. J. V. Locquiao
Pvt. P. D. Mahon
Pvt. V. C. Meier
Pvt. J. E. Melcher
Pfc. D. R. Miller
Pfc. D. M. Monninger
Pvt. S. Monroy
Pvt. C. F. Mullaly
Pfc. K. D. Munson Wright
*Pfc. S. J. Nale
Pfc. M. E. Oconnell
Pfc. W. D. Allard
Pvt. A. A. Medrano
Pvt. D. O. Mendoza
Pvt. W. C. Merida
Pfc. J. D. Michler
Pvt. K. C. Miranda
Pvt. A. J. Moore
*Pfc. S. W. Moore
*Pfc. J. A. Moorman
Pfc. R. Campos
Pvt. D. J. Carothers
Pvt. L. J. Carper III
Pvt. A. X. Chavez
Pvt. S. T. Chea
Pvt. J. J. Chidester
Pvt. R. M. Creamer
Pvt. K. C. Danekas
Pfc. J. M. Davis
Pvt. W. R. Deaton
Pfc. K. C. Debenedetto
Pvt. K. M. Dent
*Pfc. T. Z. Dilse
Pfc. M. A. Dodson
Pvt. Z. B. Duitscher
Pvt. K. A. Earls
Pvt. T. J. Erickson
Pfc. A. M. Fink
Pvt. S. Y. Solorzano
Pvt. K. L. Funke
Pvt. B. A. Gibson
Pvt. A. A. Barajas
Pvt. E. F. Barrera Baltazar
Pvt. F. A. Blandino
Pfc. M. B. Dale
Pfc. C. R. Dastous
Pvt. K. R. Derby
Pvt. G. C. Diller
Pvt. C. D. Dutchover

Pvt. J. J. Torres
Pvt. J. T. Usseyer
Pvt. M. A. Van Wormer
Pvt. E. Ibarra
Pvt. N. E. Jeffryes
Pfc. J. D. Weltzin
Pvt. K. L. Jones
Pvt. D. M. Keever
Pvt. J. F. Kelly
Pvt. M. T. Keough
Pvt. G. M. Knapp
Pfc. J. A. Kubler
Pfc. R. T. Kusano
Pvt. C. R. Lairson
*Lance Cpl B. D. Lake
Pvt. S. M. Lamarche
Pfc. J. A. Laplace
*Pfc. E. S. Magee
Pvt. J. A. Mason
Pvt. A. A. Medrano
Pvt. S. S. Ocampo
Pvt. W. C. Merida
Pfc. J. D. Michler
Pvt. K. C. Miranda
Pvt. A. J. Moore
*Pfc. S. W. Moore
*Pfc. J. A. Moorman
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Pvt. T. J. Erickson
Pfc. A. M. Fink
Pvt. S. Y. Solorzano
Pvt. K. L. Funke
Pvt. B. A. Gibson
Pvt. A. A. Barajas
Pvt. E. F. Barrera Baltazar
Pvt. F. A. Blandino
Pfc. M. B. Dale
Pfc. C. R. Dastous
Pvt. K. R. Derby
Pvt. G. C. Diller
Pvt. C. D. Dutchover

PLATOON 3037
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. M. J. McManus
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. R. D. Banda
Staff Sgt. P. A. Botello
Sgt. D. E. Smith

Pfc. J. P. Aguirre
Pfc. W. D. Allard
Pvt. A. A. Medrano
Pvt. D. O. Mendoza
Pvt. W. C. Merida
Pfc. J. D. Michler
Pvt. K. C. Miranda
Pvt. A. J. Moore
*Pfc. S. W. Moore
*Pfc. J. A. Moorman
Pfc. R. Campos
Pvt. D. J. Carothers
Pvt. L. J. Carper III
Pvt. A. X. Chavez
Pvt. S. T. Chea
Pvt. J. J. Chidester
Pvt. R. M. Creamer
Pvt. K. C. Danekas
Pfc. J. M. Davis
Pvt. W. R. Deaton
Pfc. K. C. Debenedetto
Pvt. K. M. Dent
*Pfc. T. Z. Dilse
Pfc. M. A. Dodson
Pvt. Z. B. Duitscher
Pvt. K. A. Earls
Pvt. T. J. Erickson
Pfc. A. M. Fink
Pvt. S. Y. Solorzano
Pvt. K. L. Funke
Pvt. B. A. Gibson
Pvt. A. A. Barajas
Pvt. E. F. Barrera Baltazar
Pvt. F. A. Blandino
Pfc. M. B. Dale
Pfc. C. R. Dastous
Pvt. K. R. Derby
Pvt. G. C. Diller
Pvt. C. D. Dutchover

PLATOON 3035
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. J. Maleno
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. L. Sandoval
Sgt. I. M. Bambao
Sgt. F. Cervantes

Pvt. S. D. Acevedo
Pvt. S. Almanza Jr.
Pvt. M. H. Atkins
Pvt. J. T. Atwood
Pvt. E. A. Barajas
Pvt. E. F. Barrera Baltazar
Pvt. F. A. Blandino
Pfc. M. B. Dale
Pfc. C. R. Dastous
Pvt. K. R. Derby
Pvt. G. C. Diller
Pvt. C. D. Dutchover



Third Recruit Training Battalion staff conducts Company I's battalion commander's inspection Tuesday morning. Pfc. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Pvt. A. D. Frank
Pfc. J. L. Getman
Pfc. J. W. Gibson
Pvt. A. Gonzalez
Pvt. E. G. Harris IV
Pfc. J. P. Jordan
Pfc. A. Liu
Pvt. J. V. Locquiao
Pvt. P. D. Mahon
Pvt. V. C. Meier
Pvt. J. E. Melcher
Pfc. D. R. Miller
Pfc. D. M. Monninger
Pvt. S. Monroy
Pvt. C. F. Mullaly
Pfc. K. D. Munson Wright
*Pfc. S. J. Nale
Pfc. M. E. Oconnell
Pfc. W. D. Allard
Pvt. A. A. Medrano
Pvt. D. O. Mendoza
Pvt. W. C. Merida
Pfc. J. D. Michler
Pvt. K. C. Miranda
Pvt. A. J. Moore
*Pfc. S. W. Moore
*Pfc. J. A. Moorman
Pfc. R. Campos
Pvt. D. J. Carothers
Pvt. L. J. Carper III
Pvt. A. X. Chavez
Pvt. S. T. Chea
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Pvt. K. M. Dent
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Pfc. C. R. Dastous
Pvt. K. R. Derby
Pvt. G. C. Diller
Pvt. C. D. Dutchover

Pfc. J. J. Torres
Pvt. J. T. Usseyer
Pvt. M. A. Van Wormer
Pvt. E. Ibarra
Pvt. N. E. Jeffryes
Pfc. J. D. Weltzin
Pvt. K. L. Jones
Pvt. D. M. Keever
Pvt. J. F. Kelly
Pvt. M. T. Keough
Pvt. G. M. Knapp
Pfc. J. A. Kubler
Pfc. R. T. Kusano
Pvt. C. R. Lairson
*Lance Cpl B. D. Lake
Pvt. S. M. Lamarche
Pfc. J. A. Laplace
*Pfc. E. S. Magee
Pvt. J. A. Mason
Pvt. A. A. Medrano
Pvt. S. S. Ocampo
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Pvt. S. T. Chea
Pvt. J. J. Chidester
Pvt. R. M. Creamer
Pvt. K. C. Danekas
Pfc. J. M. Davis
Pvt. W. R. Deaton
Pfc. K. C. Debenedetto
Pvt. K. M. Dent
*Pfc. T. Z. Dilse
Pfc. M. A. Dodson
Pvt. Z. B. Duitscher
Pvt. K. A. Earls
Pvt. T. J. Erickson
Pfc. A. M. Fink
Pvt. S. Y. Solorzano
Pvt. K. L. Funke
Pvt. B. A. Gibson
Pvt. A. A. Barajas
Pvt. E. F. Barrera Baltazar
Pvt. F. A. Blandino
Pfc. M. B. Dale
Pfc. C. R. Dastous
Pvt. K. R. Derby
Pvt. G. C. Diller
Pvt. C. D. Dutchover

Pfc. J. J. Torres
Pvt. J. T. Usseyer
Pvt. M. A. Van Wormer
Pvt. E. Ibarra
Pvt. N. E. Jeffryes
Pfc. J. D. Weltzin
Pvt. K. L. Jones
Pvt. D. M. Keever
Pvt. J. F. Kelly
Pvt. M. T. Keough
Pvt. G. M. Knapp
Pfc. J. A. Kubler
Pfc. R. T. Kusano
Pvt. C. R. Lairson
*Lance Cpl B. D. Lake
Pvt. S. M. Lamarche
Pfc. J. A. Laplace
*Pfc. E. S. Magee
Pvt. J. A. Mason
Pvt. A. A. Medrano
Pvt. S. S. Ocampo
Pvt. W. C. Merida
Pfc. J. D. Michler
Pvt. K. C. Miranda
Pvt. A. J. Moore
*Pfc. S. W. Moore
*Pfc. J. A. Moorman
Pfc. R. Campos
Pvt. D. J. Carothers



Cpl. Jonathan S. Molloy, Titans’ tight end, catches one of the depot’s last attempts to score game Monday, which ended in a 32-0 loss for the depot. Pfc.Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos

STOPPED SHORT

Titans season ends after 32-0 blowout by MAG 39

BY PFC. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron Staff

The depot Titians’ playoff dreams fell short of gigantic in the second round after the Marine Aircraft Group 39 Mad Dawgs slaughtered them Monday.

The game began in what seemed to be a prelude to the Titans’ demise when the opening kick returner fumbled the catch. After this opening folly, the Titans held the Mad Dawg’s offense to get the ball back but were unable to make any progress.

Due to the hectic schedule on the depot for the Marines, it’s hard to get together for practice and work on the problems, said Master Sgt. William R. Barr, Titans’ quarterback.

Close to the end of the first quarter, the Mad Dawgs capitalized on a touchdown pass and missed the point after touchdown attempt making the score 6-0.

During the second quarter, the Titans once again failed to make progress due to repeated fumbles and a lack of coordination. The first half finished with the Mad

Dawgs 19, Titans 0.

“Their team came more prepared to play,” said Lance Cpl. Eric Folmar, Titans’ back-up quarterback and receiver. “Our lack of cooperation and ball movement led to our loss.”

Despite ending the game being shutout 32-0, the Titans have high hopes for next-year’s season and their chances to win the championship.

The Titans were the depot’s first tackle football team in nearly half a century, and the standards are set high for next year.

“With more support from Marine Corps Community Services with four and five-man sleds, different gear and other needs we should be a good team,” said Sgt. Mike L. Morales, Titan linebacker and captain.

Barr anticipates coaching next year instead of playing to help manage the team. Now that the depot has made its mark in the football league hopefully more people will come out and play, said Folmar.

If interested in playing, contact Sgt. Mike L. Morales at (619) 524-8293.



Lance Cpl. Rodney T. Blackwell, Titans’ running back, bursts across the line of scrimmage for a short gain.